

BA-823

Black Rock Farm (Callahan House)
North side of Stringtown Rd.
east of Falls Rd.
Not accessible
Circa 1825-1840

This small stone farm house was probably the home of the tenant farmer on Jonns' Black Rock Farm. Tax records indicate that the farm had a dwelling house on it at least as early as 1852, and architecturally it appears to be as early as the beginning of the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The bank barn is typical of all barns in the area, built into a hillside facing south.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Tenant House on Black Rock Farm

AND/OR COMMON

William H. Callahan House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North side of Stringtown Road, east of Falls Road

CITY, TOWN

Butler

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

William H. Callahan

Telephone #: 235-9400

STREET & NUMBER

500 W. 29th Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21218

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 5475

Folio #: 323

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Callahan House is a stone house, one and one-half storeys in height, one long bay in length; it measures approximately 16½ by 19 feet. This structure, which probably dates from the early 19th century, appears not to be a principal dwelling but rather a kitchen house or a tenant house. No larger early dwelling remains on this property.

The principal front is the south gable end, containing a window and a door in the first storey, two windows above; east and west sides contain a single window in the first storey only; and the north end contains two small windows in the upper storey only, flanking the chimney which rises as a brick stack flush with the north gable wall. All windows are void of sash but the remaining frames are of narrow beaded material. The sash were probably 6/6. Masonry above openings is supported by massive rough stone lintels.

Internally each storey consists of a single room; a large fireplace is in the north end of the first storey, its wooden lintel chamfered away from the flames on the inner side. An enclosed stair rises east of the chimney. Interior finishes are void of mouldings, the windows and doors being trimmed with plain material. The hewn second floor joists, and the underside of the flooring, are heavily coated with whitewash, all covered by later plaster on circular-sawn lathe. The rafters are mitered at the ridge.

A very large bank barn stands west of the house. The taller upper or loft story, with its gambrel roof cantilevers over the south ground storey wall to shelter entrances and windows to the stalls within.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	Unknown	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown
----------------	---------	-------------------	---------

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Callahan House, located on Stringtown Road just east of Falls Road, is probably the surviving tenant house of the Johns' family's Black Rock Farm. The land was patented as Miller's Delight in 1798 by Richard Johns and inherited by John Tolley Johns about 1850.

The 1852 Baltimore County tax shows improvements on the land, although the 1823 tax does not. Testimony in an 1870 equity case indicates that there were tenants on the property and that both the land and buildings had been abused and were in poor condition. One house and a lime quarry may be seen in this location on the plat which was prepared for the trial.

Shadrack Kemp, who purchased the farm at public sale, owned other property nearby and probably had a tenant farmer living there. Not until about 1911, as indicated by taxes, were ~~there~~ other buildings surrounding this house. The 1918 tax assessment specifically lists this as "Tenant house #2" and gives dimensions which correspond to those of the present structure.

The property has been farmed continuously and was not divided until 1964 when fifty acres were sold to the Young Men's Christian Association for its Black Rock Camp.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Judicial Libers JB 45 folio 188 and LMB 161 folio 427 (John J. Caldwell et al vs. John T. Johns).

Plat Book 1 folio 153. Land Records Office. Baltimore County Courthouse
Baltimore County tax assessments: 1852, 1876, 1896, 1911, 1918.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 165± acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr., AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

September, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

BA-823

Callahan House
Western Run-Belfast Rd.
Historic District

Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7: Description:

That south wall in the ground storey is of frame but other walls of the ground storey are of stone.